

(c) **STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.**—Section 15(j)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n(j)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

“(6) **STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.**—The Trust shall be exempt from any income, sales, use, property, or other similar tax or fee imposed or levied by a State, political subdivision, or local taxing authority. The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction over a civil action brought by the Trust to enforce this subsection and may grant equitable or declaratory relief requested by the Trust.”

(d) **FUNDING.**—Section 15(j)(8) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n(j)(8)) is repealed.

(e) **TRANSFERS.**—Section 15A(d)(2) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n-1(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or the Railroad Retirement Account” after “National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust” the second place it appears;

(2) by inserting “or the Railroad Retirement Board” after “National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust” the third place it appears;

(3) by inserting “(either directly or through a commingled account consisting only of such obligations)” after “United States” the first place it appears; and

(4) in the third sentence, by inserting before the period at the end the following: “or to purchase such additional obligations”.

(f) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Section 15(j)(5) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n(j)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “trustees” each place it appears and inserting “Trustee’s”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “trustee” and “trustees” each place it appears and inserting “Trustee” and “Trustees”, respectively; and

(3) in the matter preceding clause (i) of subparagraph (D), by striking “trustee” and inserting “Trustee”.

Subtitle D—Amendments Related to Title XVI

SEC. 430. EXCLUSION FROM INCOME FOR CERTAIN INFREQUENT OR IRREGULAR INCOME AND CERTAIN INTEREST OR DIVIDEND INCOME.

(a) **INFREQUENT OR IRREGULAR INCOME.**—Section 1612(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382a(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows—

“(3) in any calendar quarter, the first—

“(A) \$60 of unearned income, and

“(B) \$30 of earned income,

of such individual (and such spouse, if any) which, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Commissioner of Social Security, is received too infrequently or irregularly to be included;”

(b) **INTEREST OR DIVIDEND INCOME.**—Section 1612(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (21), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (22), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(23) interest or dividend income from sources—

“(A) not excluded under section 1613(a), or

“(B) excluded pursuant to Federal law other than section 1613(a).”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective with respect to benefits payable for months in calendar quarters that begin more than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 431. UNIFORM 9-MONTH RESOURCE EXCLUSION PERIODS.

(a) **UNDERPAYMENTS OF BENEFITS.**—Section 1613(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382b(a)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking “6” and inserting “9”; and

(2) by striking “(or to the first 9 months following such month with respect to any amount so received during the period beginning October 1, 1987, and ending September 30, 1989)”.

(b) **ADVANCEABLE TAX CREDITS.**—Section 1613(a)(11) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382b(a)(11)) is amended to read as follows:

“(11) for the 9-month period beginning after the month in which received—

“(A) notwithstanding section 203 of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, any refund of Federal income taxes made to such individual (or such spouse) under section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to child tax credit) by reason of subsection (d) thereof; and

“(B) any refund of Federal income taxes made to such individual (or such spouse) by reason of section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to earned income tax credit), and any payment made to such individual (or such spouse) by an employer under section 3507 of such Code (relating to advance payment of earned income credit);”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply to amounts described in paragraph (7) of section 1613(a) of the Social Security Act and refunds of Federal income taxes described in paragraph (11) of such section, that are received by an eligible individual or eligible spouse on or after such date.

SEC. 432. ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE APPLICATION OF THE STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1612(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382a(b)(1)) is amended by striking “a child who” and inserting “under the age of 22 and”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall be effective with respect to benefits payable for months that begin on or after 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 433. EXCEPTION TO RETROSPECTIVE MONTHLY ACCOUNTING FOR NON-RECURRING INCOME.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1611(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9)(A) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), any nonrecurring income which is paid to an individual in the first month of any period of eligibility shall be taken into account in determining the amount of the benefit under this title of such individual (and his eligible spouse, if any) only for that month, and shall not be taken into account in determining the amount of the benefit for any other month.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), payments to an individual in varying amounts from the same or similar source for the same or similar purpose shall not be considered to be non-recurring income.”

(b) **DELETION OF OBSOLETE MATERIAL.**—Section 1611(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(c)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) in the case of the first month following a period of ineligibility in which eligibility is restored after the first day of such month, bear the same ratio to the amount of the benefit which would have been payable to such individual if eligibility had been restored on the first day of such month as the number of days in such month including and following the date of restoration of eligibility bears to the total number of days in such month.”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective with respect to benefits payable for months that begin on or after 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 434. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO CHILDREN WHO ARE BORN OR WHO BECOME BLIND OR DISABLED AFTER THEIR MILITARY PARENTS ARE STATIONED OVERSEAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1614(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and” after “citizen of the United States,”; and

(2) by striking “, and who,” and all that follows and inserting a period.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective with respect to benefits payable for months beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, but only on the basis of an application filed after such date.

SEC. 435. TREATMENT OF EDUCATION-RELATED INCOME AND RESOURCES.

(a) **EXCLUSION FROM INCOME OF GIFTS PROVIDED FOR TUITION AND OTHER EDUCATION-RELATED FEES.**—Section 1612(b)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382a(b)(7)) is amended by striking “or fellowship received for use in paying” and inserting “fellowship, or gift (or portion of a gift) used to pay”.

(b) **EXCLUSION FROM RESOURCES FOR 9 MONTHS OF GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, OR GIFTS PROVIDED FOR TUITION AND OTHER EDUCATION-RELATED FEES.**—Section 1613(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382b(a)) (as amended by section 101(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

“(15) for the 9-month period beginning after the month in which received, any grant, scholarship, fellowship, or gift (or portion of a gift) used to pay the cost of tuition and fees at any educational (including technical or vocational education) institution.”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to benefits payable for months that begin more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 436. MONTHLY TREATMENT OF UNIFORMED SERVICE COMPENSATION.

(a) **TREATMENT OF PAY AS RECEIVED WHEN EARNED.**—Section 1611(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1382(c)), as amended by section 435(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) For purposes of this subsection, remuneration for service performed as a member of a uniformed service may be treated as received in the month in which it was earned, if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that such treatment would promote the economical and efficient administration of the program authorized by this title.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to benefits payable for months that begin more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

WELCOMING PUBLIC APOLOGIES BY PRESIDENTS OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, AND REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 378, S. Res. 237.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 237) welcoming the public apologies issued by the President of Serbia and Montenegro and the President of the Republic of Croatia and urging other leaders in the region to perform similar concrete acts of reconciliation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution

be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 237) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 237

Whereas the President of Serbia and Montenegro and the President of the Republic of Croatia each issued on September 10, 2003, a public statement of apology for the crimes committed by citizens of each country against citizens of the other country; and

Whereas the countries of Southeast Europe are struggling to move beyond the problems of the past and toward a brighter future that includes membership in both the European Union and NATO: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the public apologies issued on September 10, 2003, by the President of Serbia and Montenegro and the President of the Republic of Croatia;

(2) commends the initiative and personal courage demonstrated by their actions;

(3) recognizes the value of such apologies in the important process of reconciliation in Southeast Europe;

(4) notes public support within the region for these efforts;

(5) calls upon the governments in the region to continue their efforts to encourage and advance reconciliation; and

(6) reiterates the importance of resolving post-conflict issues, including—

(A) by ensuring that refugees and internally displaced persons have the right to return home; and

(B) by bringing persons indicted for war crimes to justice, including through cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia.

**CONGO BASIN FOREST
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2003**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2264, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2264) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 2228 and 2229) were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2228

(Purpose: To strike the authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2005)

Beginning on page 5, strike line 24 and all that follows through page 6, line 11, and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program \$18,600,000 for fiscal year 2004.

(b) CARPE.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a), \$16,000,000 is authorized to be made available to the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 2229

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership program, and for other purposes."

The bill (H.R. 2264), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET
AUTONOMY ACT OF 2003**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 418, S. 1267.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1267) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide the District of Columbia with autonomy over its budgets, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs with an amendment, as follows:

S. 1267

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. ENACTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL BUDGET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 446 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1-204.46, D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

"ENACTMENT OF LOCAL BUDGET

"SEC. 446. (a) ADOPTION OF BUDGETS AND SUPPLEMENTS.—The Council, within 50 calendar days after receipt of the budget proposal from the Mayor, and after public hearing, shall by Act adopt the annual budget for the District of Columbia government. Any supplements thereto shall also be adopted by Act by the Council after public hearing.

"(b) TRANSMISSION TO PRESIDENT DURING CONTROL YEARS.—In the case of a budget for a fiscal year which is a control year, the budget so adopted shall be submitted by the Mayor to the President for transmission by him to the Congress, except that the Mayor shall not transmit any such budget, or amendments or supplements thereto, to the President until the completion of the budget procedures contained in this Act and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995.

"(c) PROHIBITING OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER BUDGET.—Except as provided in section 445A(b), section

467(d), section 471(c), section 472(d), section 475(e), section 483(d), and subsections (f), (g), (h)(3), and (i)(3) of section 490, no amount may be obligated or expended by any officer or employee of the District of Columbia government unless—

"(1) such amount has been approved by an Act of the Council (and then only in accordance with such authorization) and a copy of such Act has been transmitted by the Chairman to the Congress; or

"(2) in the case of an amount obligated or expended during a control year, such amount has been approved by an Act of Congress (and then only in accordance with such authorization).

"(d) RESTRICTIONS ON REPROGRAMMING OF AMOUNTS.—After the adoption of the annual budget for a fiscal year (beginning with the annual budget for fiscal year 1995), no reprogramming of amounts in the budget may occur unless the Mayor submits to the Council a request for such reprogramming and the Council approves the request, but only if any additional expenditures provided under such request for an activity are offset by reductions in expenditures for another activity.

"(e) DEFINITION.—In this part, the term 'control year' has the meaning given such term in section 305(4) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995."

(b) LENGTH OF CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD FOR BUDGET ACTS.—Section 602(c) of such Act (sec. 1-206.02(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraphs (2) and (4)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) In the case of any Act transmitted under the first sentence of paragraph (1) to which section 446 applies and for which the fiscal year involved is not a control year, such Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 30-calendar-day period beginning on the day such Act is transmitted, or upon the date prescribed by such Act, whichever is later, unless during such 30-day period, there has been enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving such Act. If such 30-day period expires on any day on which neither House is in session because of an adjournment sine die, a recess of more than three days, or an adjournment of more than three days, the period applicable under the previous sentence shall be extended for 5 additional days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and any day on which neither House is in session because of an adjournment sine die, a recess of more than three days, or an adjournment of more than three days). In any case in which any such joint resolution disapproving such an Act has, within the applicable period, passed both Houses of Congress and has been transmitted to the President, such resolution, upon becoming law, subsequent to the expiration of such period, shall be deemed to have repealed such Act, as of the date such resolution becomes law. The provisions of section 604 shall apply with respect to any joint resolution disapproving any Act pursuant to this paragraph."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Sections 467(d), 471(c), 472(d)(2), 475(e)(2), and 483(d), and subsections (f), (g)(3), (h)(3), and (i)(3) of section 490 of such Act are each amended by striking "The fourth sentence of section 446" and inserting "Section 446(c)".

(2) The third sentence of section 412(a) of such Act (sec. 1-204.12(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by inserting "for a fiscal year which is a control year described in such section" after "section 446 applies".

(3) Section 202(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 (sec. 47-